

[Patrick H. Boone]

Redfield, Georgia B.

Words 189

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PATRICK R. BOONE

Pioneer Ranchman and Cattleman

Leader in Construction of Hondo Irrigation Canal

Established First Roswell Meat Market

When Patrick H. Boone came to New Mexico and settled in Roswell in 1882 the growth and development of this town that was destined to become a leading City of New Mexico had practically ceased for a period of eight or ten years.

The two adobe houses - a store and a hotel - built in 1869 by Van C. Smith and Aaron O. Wilburn, on what is now the block west of the Court House, and a blacksmith shop established by Rufus H. Dunnahoo in 1881, (a short while before the coming of Mr. Boone) on what is now the corner of North Main and Fourth Streets was about all the progress made in development of the town at the time of the coming of Mr. Boone, who realizing that New Mexico was an ideal cattle country, soon after his arrival established a ranch at Salt Creek, about eighteen miles northwest of Roswell, and embarked in the cattle business. He then established the first meat market in Roswell. C18 - 5/6/41 N. Mex.

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C. D. Bonney had also come to Roswell and settled in 1881. He purchased an interest in the store owned by Captain Joseph C. Lea, which operated under the name of "Lea Bonney and Company."

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After Mr. Boone had become acquainted with Mr. Bonney, the two became close friends, and when together they discussed ways and means whereby undeveloped land around Roswell might be watered and put into cultivation.

Some of the plans discussed by them resulted in the construction of what was called the "Northern Canal" from the Hondo River, construction of which was begun in 1883.

When work on the canal was completed the Hondo River furnished water for all farm lands south of Roswell, as far as the present town of Hagerman - a distance of twenty-four miles. Other Others actively became interested in this canal irrigation project, besides Pat Boone and C. D. Bonney, were Asbury Whetstone - who did the surveying - and Pat Garrett - who owned a ranch home near the Hondo River dam, about three miles east of Roswell.

After the construction of the Hondo Canal Irrigation System, Mr. Boone established and developed one of the finest ranches in the Pacos Valley, now known as the Urton Ranch about four miles northeast of Roswell, which he sold to W. [?]. Urton in 1900, and is now owned by William Cooley Urton, a son of Mr. W. G. Urton.

Mr. Boone was born in [Neosha?], Missouri and was educated in the public schools of [Neosha?].

After coming to New Mexico he married April 22nd 1890, to Miss Mildred F. Littlefield, daughter of a prominent ranchman of Texas and New Mexico. Four children, two girls and two boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. Boone: Mrs. 3 Minerva Pope, the wife of Professor D. N. Pope, who for over twenty years was Superintendent of the Roswell Public schools and Mrs. Alice Allison, the wife of Arthur Allison, owner of Roswell Greenhouse and Floral

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Company, Pat H. Boone, Junior, a ranchman of Littlefield, Texas, and William Littlefield Boone, who died in 1909 at three months of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Pope have one child, a son, Delmar N. Pope Junior, seven years old, who was born in Roswell, on Christmas Day, 1930.

Mr. and Mrs. Allison have one child a daughter, Mildred Lou, born in Roswell, who is seven years of age.

[Mrs?]. and Mrs. Patrick Boone Junior have one son, Patrick Boone the third, born in Littlefield Texas, now fifteen years of age.

Mr. Patrick H. Boone, Senior, died in Corpus Christi, Texas in October 1910, and was buried at th that place. His wife Mrs. Mildred (Littlefield) Boone died November 25, 1921.

Mr. Boone, who was of an adventurous, happy disposition, made many fiends in Roswell and in other places where he met people of all stations of life and of numerous professions. During his travel he was once taken for Jessie James the famous outlaw, whom he resembled in heighth, bearing and features. He was arrested and held for several hours until a friend could identify him, and assure officials of the law that he was in no way connected with the dreaded bandit of some sixty years ago.

Mr. Boone is remembered by the early settlers of Roswell 4 as a man who was kind and generous giving of his worldly possessions to many in times of need, and lending a helping hand in every way possible during the hard years of settlement in the lawless new country of the Territory of New Mexico.

Source of Information

C. D. Bonney and Lucius Dills, Roswell

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Mrs. D. N. Pope, his daughter, Roswell.